Invitation

European Border Dialogues

New focus on regional dialogue and cooperation between European East and West.

Opening conference at The 4th Annual Stoltenberg Symposium

Over the last two decades Europe has seen the establishment of several new region-building initiatives across East-West borderlines. Trans-border relations in these regions remain vital to European security and prosperity.

The European Border Dialogues project, an initiative of the Norwegian Barents Secretariat and the Barents Institute, seeks to bridge experience, practice, know-how, and research from East-West border regions in Europe. It aims to develop contacts, exchange information, share best practices, and organize joint seminars, conferences and projects to strengthen collaboration and formalize relations between these border regions.

We invite you to attend the launch of the project to be held on 1-2 October 2009 in Kirkenes, Norway during the 4th Annual Thorvald Stoltenberg Symposium, which will be on ‘EUROPEAN BORDER DIALOGUES: “Good Governance and Best Practices in the European Borderlands”.’

The event will be opened by former Norwegian Foreign Minister Thorvald Stoltenberg.

Welcome!

Best regards,
Rune Rafaelsen
General Secretary of the Norwegian Barents Secretariat
Tel +47 78977050, Fax +47 78977055, email: rune.rafaelsen@barents.no

Contact person:
Aileen A. Espiritu, The Barents Institute
Tel: +47 45885997, email: aileen.espiritu@barinst.no or aaespiritu@gmail.com
About the organizers

The Norwegian Barents Secretariat is a state-funded organization, established in 1993 to help stimulate cooperation in the Barents Euro-Arctic Region, both within the frames of regional political cooperation and as a cross-border project funding organization.

The secretariat annually funds several hundred small and medium-sized projects within a wide range of fields. It is also engages in information work, and owns and runs the website BarentsObserver.com.

The Barents Secretariat will assist with the practical facilitation of the European Border Dialogue project.

Read more about the Norwegian Barents Secretariat at [www.barents.no](http://www.barents.no)

The Barents Institute is a research organization established in 2006 as an effort to strengthen research and information about the Barents Cooperation, Norwegian-Russian relations and trans-border processes.

The Barents Institute will lead the research part of the European Border Dialogue initiative.

Read more about the Barents Institute at [www.barentsinstitute.org](http://www.barentsinstitute.org)

Both the Norwegian Barents Secretariat and the Barents Institute are located in Kirkenes, northern Norway, only few kilometers from the Russian border.